

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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WHERE RESPONSIBILITY IN HEALTH MATTERS IS PLACED

IS FIXED BY THE STATUTES IN FLORIDA

State Board of Health Has Original Jurisdiction Anywhere in the State Over Only Three Diseases

Who is responsible authority in health matters in Florida? The functional relations of the State Board of Health and of other authorities are clearly defined in the statute books, but like the Ten Commandments, these matters get mixed without an occasional refreshing of memory.

The law that established the State Board of Health and defined its duties, gave it original jurisdiction anywhere in the State over three diseases—cholera, yellow fever and smallpox. Under this law it has the right—it is its duty—to assume control in the event of an epidemic or of sporadic cases of these ailments and in their management its authority is superior to that of city or county boards or of local physicians.

In the occurrence of any other diseases, whether in epidemic prevalence or in individual cases, its duty is entirely advisory and it may assume supreme authority only when the situation has gone beyond the control of local health authorities.

The question has been revived by the present menace of infantile paralysis against which the most careful supervision on travel has been established by the State Health authorities at every point and port of entry from northern infected districts. Many inquiries from many parts of the State have come to the State Health Officer, asking for instructions in the possible emergency of the appearance of the disease in a Florida city or town. And under the existing law of the state, the health officer is limited only to giving advice for certain communicable diseases. The responsibility for action, prompt and correct, rests and must rest, upon local health authorities and physicians.

The record of the State Board for almost twenty-eight years—since it was established in 1889—has proved its willingness, its desire, to act and advise for the good of all Floridians and even to stretch the rigid interpretation of law where it may seem to be for the general welfare, but it has always avoided any overstepping of the bounds of its legal jurisdiction or an interference with the authorities of city health boards. Excepting in the three diseases already named, its functions are entirely advisory and educational.

Whether this limitation of its duties is wise or conducive to its widest usefulness, is a matter of more or less speculation. Any enlargement of its functions, by giving it original jurisdiction and authority in the occurrence of other diseases, can be accomplished only by a change of the law of the state, and such change may be made by the wish or demand of the people of Florida.

The present fight against the invasion of Florida by infantile paralysis is being made by the local health authorities in the various cities through which such invasion would come. As the plague rages with increasing severity in New York, Florida presents a solid front against the menace, and although summer travel from New York by rail and water direct into Florida, probably has never been greater than during the present season, not a single case of the infection, so far as is known at the present writing, has passed within the bounds of the state from the infected areas to the north of us.

If the season shall pass without such invasion, it will be a tribute to the faithful watchfulness, the untiring efficiency and the skill of the local boards of health, and of the physicians and nurses on whom the actual responsibility rests.—State Board of Health.

Long Life in Florida

One of the most interesting articles we have read in a long time was given in last Sunday's Tampa Tribune, and was written by G. M. Randall, M. D., under the caption, "Why Floridians Are Longer Lived." This article should have the very widest publicity. Editors cannot perform a higher duty to the state and humanity than from time to time to emphasize the more salient points in this splendid article. Probably the most effective way to present this would be by giving excerpts than presenting it as a whole because of its length. An intelligent person can see at a glance that this is not an ordinary boost article, but that it is written by a man thoroughly informed as to the scientific reasons for longevity in Florida. The following paragraphs represent some of the things Dr. Randall said in his discussion of this interesting question:

"In studying so far as possible the lives of 1,280 men who have lived upwards of 100 years from Methuselah to the present, the writer can but observe that with but sixty-five exceptions they have lived in the semi-tropics, and incidentally I would state that 88 per cent. of the 1,280 were practically vegetarians.

"Some factors of longevity which obtain in Florida are these: No sudden changes of temperature and humidity. The temperature more nearly approaches the normal body temperature. Less energy or combustion, spoken of in scientific language as 'oxidation,' is required to maintain normal bodily heat. There is in consequence less waste of products to be eliminated or carried out of the system leaving less burden on the organs concerned in the carrying out, or away, these products of tissue waste and change, the principal of which are the kidneys and mucous membrane of the lungs. The skin is more active and takes on the work of elimination which further lessens the work of the more vital organs. It has been said by good medical men that a man or woman is as old as his kidneys.

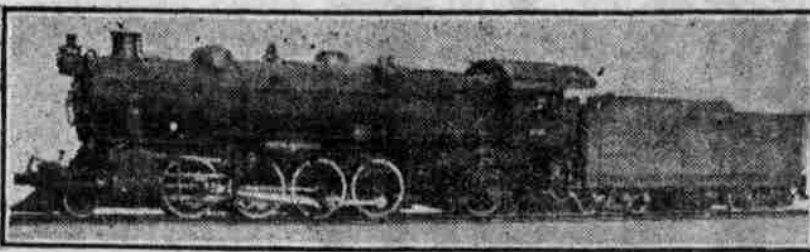
These sudden changes of temperature and humidity engender catarrhal inflammation of the nose, throat and lungs, which favors all sorts of infections, such as pneumonia, diphtheria, tuberculosis, infantile paralysis, and many other diseases which Florida is comparatively immune from. Infantile paralysis, which is just now disturbing the north temperate zone, will never be a factor in the south temperate zone because the point of entrance and infection is the vasa pharyngeal mucous membrane made susceptible by catarrhal inflammation and always on the increase during prolonged cold and wet seasons.

Florida in summer is a safe and healthful climate, much more so than Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Illinois or many northern states. It is warm for a longer time; July, August and September run about the same. The middle of the day is hot in the sun, but not hot in the shade, and there is nearly always a breeze; the nights are invariably refreshing.

"One important reason why Florida is increasing in wealth and population faster than any other state in the Union is the fact that the healthfulness of the state as a whole is coming to be understood by conservative men in the north."—Arcadia News.

There is a story, for the historical accuracy of which we cannot vouch, that an editor once applied at the door of Hades for admission. "Well, sir," replied the devil, "we let one of your profession in here three years ago, and he kept up a continual row with his former delinquent subscribers; and, as we have more of that class of persons here than any other, we have passed a law prohibiting the admission of editors."

Cheap Transportation Has Built National Prosperity



This is a big American freight engine. It is an achievement of AMERICAN INVENTIVE GENIUS. It is built to HAUL LONG TRAINS loaded with the products of American industry from the mines, farms, mills and factories to the markets of the country, and to the seaboard for shipment across the seas. In all the wonderful history of American industrial progress NO PIECE OF MACHINERY HAS PERFORMED SUCH SERVICE AS THE BIG FREIGHT LOCOMOTIVE.

Freight is carried on our railroads at the LOWEST RATES IN THE WORLD, while we pay our railroad workers the HIGHEST WAGES IN THE WORLD. A TON OF FREIGHT IN THE EAST IS CARRIED THREE MILES FOR THE COST OF A TWO-CENT POSTAGE STAMP.

Cheap transportation is one of the biggest builders of our prosperity. The big freight engine with its enormous tractive power, the big steel freight car with its great carrying capacity, and the heavy rails and rock-ballasted roadbed to support the weight of the great engines and heavy trains—these are the achievements of American industrial genius which have given us low freight rates and broad markets, and have enabled us to put our products in the markets of the world in competition with foreign manufacturers.

But now come well-meaning but short-sighted leaders of American railroad workers who say to the railroad managers:

"SHORTEN YOUR FREIGHT TRAINS so that the enginemen and trainmen can haul the tonnage faster over the roads, and so make as many miles pay in eight hours as they now do in ten hours."

To the State Legislatures these same spokesmen for the railroad workers say:

"Pass laws LIMITING THE LENGTH OF FREIGHT TRAINS—we oppose big tonnage trains."

To the Farmers, Manufacturers, and Merchants they say: "With shorter freight trains railroads can move your products faster to the markets."

To the American Public that pays every dollar of the railroad bill (and 44 cents of every dollar paid for transportation is for wages), they say:

"All that the railroads have to do to meet our demands for higher wages is to shorten their trains, move the freight more rapidly and escape the penalty of overtime wages."

What would be the result of taking these leaders of the 350,000 train employees at their word—shorten freight trains so that they can be run at higher speed?

Increasing the number of trains to handle the same tonnage would call for more employees to do the same work, more tracks, larger yards and terminals, more supervision, and it is plain that there would be more congestion of traffic and greater hazards in train operation. Hundreds of millions a year would have to be spent by the railroads to increase their facilities and to operate the bigger plant.

IT WOULD BE ASKING TO USE HAND SHOVELS INSTEAD OF FIVE-TON STEAM DREDGES TO DIG A PANAMA CANAL.

American railroads have spent enormous amounts in reducing grades, cutting down mountains and filling up valleys; in increasing the hauling power of locomotives and the carrying capacity of cars; in putting down rock ballast and heavy rails—all for one purpose, to lower the cost of operation.

It is the public that has reaped the benefit—in better and cheaper railroad service.

If the railroads moved their tonnage in shorter trains at higher speeds, the public, it is seen, would have to shoulder a great burden in the increased cost of transportation.

Would the public get value received for its money? Of the tonnage on the roads east of Chicago 60 per cent. consists of coal, coke, ores, stone and other mine products. To the public it is of no consequence whether this freight is a few hours longer on the road, so long as there is a continuous and regular stream of it coming to the markets.

FOUR-FIFTHS OF ALL THE TONNAGE MOVING IN THE EAST IS MADE UP OF LOW GRADE, SLOW MOVING FREIGHT, CARRIED AT THE LOWEST RATES IN THE WORLD.

To abandon the big freight trains on American railroads in order to increase the speed at which the bulk of the traffic moves, and thereby enable the train employees to earn higher wages in shorter hours, would place a great burden on American industry without giving the public any tangible benefit.

Give the Baby a Chance

Bad air, bad milk, over-crowding, poverty, dirt, ignorance, heat—these combine in summer to kill the city baby. It seems as though the brunt of the cities' sanitary sins were focused on the baby. The baby didn't ask to come, to live in a hot, air-tight tenement, to be fed on dirty, half-spoiled milk, to be pestered with flies and mosquitoes. He is not responsible for any of these conditions and it is his right that he have fresh air, clean surroundings and decent food. The United States Public Health Service issues free of charge to all applicants a bulletin on "The Summer Care of Infants." If should be in the hands of every mother.

Florida produced 12,000,000 bushels of corn last year, and a yield of 13,000,000 bushels is predicted for the present year. This is a wonderful state.—Tampa Times.

A Sub-Marine

Philadelphia.—Can a citizen volunteer for training in the duties of the United States Marine Corps, holding himself in readiness to take the place of a regular marine killed in war, be properly termed a sub-marine? That is what the "rookies" now at the Marine Corps training camp in Landsdowne, Pa., would like to know.

Friends of the citizen "sea soldiers" are telling them that a marine, although coached in the signals and likely to be called upon to "pinch hit" for a regular marine, must necessarily be a sub-marine.

The "rookies" themselves say that Noah Webster overlooked this knotty problem when he wrote his best seller, and they are calling on sports editors to decide the question.

An Elkton, Pa., man has 60 cousins in the British army.

FIGHTING IN QUAGMIRES THE RUSSIANS CONTINUE ADVANCE

Going Behind the Returns

Some of our friends who take the Catts end of the governorship controversy have been claiming that democratic precedent and tradition oppose going behind the returns; that the result of an election must be accepted on its face. Going behind the returns is held up as a dangerous precedent to set. But in making these assertions these contenders overlook two potent and overshadowing facts.

To begin with, there would be no object in preserving the ballots if elections are to be accepted always and without recourse to further count or inquiry. A lot of needless trouble was taken in sealing the ballot boxes and preserving the records if no candidate should be allowed the privilege of seeking a recount. It is for this very purpose that such pains are required of officials in whose custody the ballot boxes are placed. To assume that elections are conducted just as they should be, and that returns are always properly made would open the way to wholesale frauds.

In the next place, the people of Florida have a problem to deal with now that they never had before, namely, the second choice vote. Granting that precedent opposes a reopening of the ballot boxes, that precedent would not hold good under present circumstances, for the reason that a new factor has been injected into the problem.

We observe that one of the Catts partisans is contending that the second choice vote is unconstitutional. This contention will do no good, even if sustained, for the entire election would be invalid. There is overwhelming evidence to support the claim that the second choice vote was not properly counted or recorded, leading inevitably to the conclusion that the will of the people as expressed in their ballots has never yet been ascertained.

Hence it is the veriest folly to argue against the righteousness of the recount now in progress. Whenever the true results of the election have been ascertained, Mr. Knott is willing to abide the result. Neither he nor his supporters have ever intimated that he would run as an independent in any event, nor would he. Mr. Knott and his supporters are within the law of the state and the party, while Mr. Catts and his partisans are opposing both.—Orlando Reporter-Star.

Sustains The Herald's View

The Punta Gorda Herald very sensibly opposes one-cent letter postage on the ground that it will cause a deficit in postal revenues that will have to be made up in some other tax. There are other reasons for opposing the reduction equally as good, and not the least of them is the injury to commercial development outside the great cities.

More than half the letter postage of the United States is paid in six large cities, where the great mail order houses mail their tons of literature and correspondence to every quarter of the country. When you make it easier for the mail order man to reach the people, you have struck another blow at the local merchant, you have injured your community, and consequently every citizen of the community.

In seconding the opposition of the Herald, the Arcadia News truthfully says: "Two cents is a very reasonable price for which to send a letter to the uttermost parts of Uncle Sam's domains, and have it delivered to the very door of the addressee. The average man wouldn't deliver one across town for many times two cents. The Herald is right."—Daytona Journal.

The Deutschland has managed to turn a spectacular submarine trick without plunging nations into sadness and resentment.

PUSH TEUTONIC ALLIES BACK FROM SERETH

British Hold Germans Back Near Pozieres and French Make Gains South of Thiaumont Work

London, Eng.—The Germans suffered further losses at the hands of the French between the Hem woods and the Somme river, losing there a line of their trenches and 120 prisoners, and ten machine guns, and also in the Verdun sector, where the French made progress south of the Thiaumont work and captured five machine guns, and took some houses in the western part of the village of Fleury.

After a heavy bombardment of the British positions, the Germans launched a violent infantry attack north and northeast of Pozieres, and at two places succeeded in entering British trenches. The British soon drove them out, inflicting heavy casualties on them. Amid continuous heavy rains, which have turned the country into a quagmire, the Russians are keeping up their strong offensive against the Teutonic Allies in Northern Galicia, and have pushed further forward in the Sereth and Graberki River region.

Also along the Stokhod River in Volhynia, near the town of Zarzeze, the Russians have captured Teutonic trenches, taking twelve officers and 200 men prisoner—and capturing one machine gun. In the Carpathians, the Germans report the capture of two peaks.

Constantinople reports a series of gains for the Turks fighting against the Russians, and Petrograd admits at least one of the claims—that the Russians have been forced to retire under pressure to the region east of Kermanshah, Persia. An attack by the Russians north of Bukin, on the Persian front, was put down with heavy losses to the Russians, according to Constantinople and in Turkish Armenia, near Bitlis and Mush, the Russians have been put to flight and the Turks have taken from them positions the Russians had previously captured.

Turks Well Whipped

The latest reports concerning the attack of Turks against the British forces with the Suez Canal their objective, indicates that the Ottoman forces met with a reverse even more serious than was chronicled. Driven back eighteen miles into the desert, fighting rearguard actions, and of their total force of 14,000 lost forty-five officers and 3,000 men made prisoners. They now have been entirely cleared from the Katia-Umaishi basin.

Violent fighting is in progress between the Austrians and the Italians especially around the Gorizia bridgehead on the Dordberdo Plateau, and on the lower Isonzo river. Near Monte Sabotino and Monte San Michele, the Italians captured advance Austrian positions—but Vienna says the greater portion of these were later retaken by the Austrians. On the lower Isonzo Rome reports the capture of Hill 85 which was held against violent counter-attacks.

Arcadia News.—During the first six months of the fiscal year only about 25 per cent. of the total tax was paid in this county, and yet the new depository law attempts to deny the board of county commissioners the right to issue a warrant unless the funds are in the bank to pay the same; in other words, they must either disregard the law, make a levy double the amount actually necessary, or practically suspend business until just before the tax sale.

County court being in session in Arcadia, about a dozen Punta Gordans are attending it as lawyers, witnesses or victims. The last are very few in number.